



Lavant

C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and guardians,

Earlier this term, we wrote to you to explain that we would be trialling a more flexible approach to water bottles, allowing children to bring a bottle of their choice provided it met certain safety requirements. We would like to thank everyone for supporting this trial and for the feedback we have received.

Following careful consideration, we have decided that from the start of the new academic year we will return to our previous system, where all children use the standard school water bottle, one of which is provided by The Friends at the start of each academic year.

When introducing the trial, we wanted to explore whether allowing a greater variety of water bottles would better meet the needs and preferences of our families. While there have been some benefits, we have concluded that these are outweighed by a number of practical considerations that have become evident during the trial.

In particular:

- A number of parents have shared concerns about the increasing pressure on families to purchase expensive or fashionable water bottles because "everyone else has one".
- We have received positive feedback from many families who valued the consistency and equality of our previous approach.
- Many of the bottles brought into school have proved to be too large or cumbersome for everyday classroom use, taking up valuable space and creating significant noise when dropped.
- We have also experienced a small number of minor safety incidents involving heavier metal bottles being accidentally knocked into other children during the school day.

As outlined in our previous letter, we remain confident that the school water bottle we provide has been carefully chosen.

- **It is made from 100% (BPA-free) Polyethylene and safe for children,**
- **An Eco product which is 100% reusable**
- **Dishwasher safe**
- **Lightweight with fitted grip for easy handling**
- **Designed to minimise spills and classroom disruption,**
- **Supports a consistent approach across the school.**

We are pleased that we were able to trial this alternative system, as it has enabled us to make an informed decision based on our own experiences. However, having reviewed the impact over the course of the trial, we believe that returning to a standard school water bottle is in the best interests of the children and the smooth running of the school.

The Friends have once again very kindly agreed to provide every child with a school water bottle at the beginning of the new academic year, and we are extremely grateful for their continued generosity and support.

There will be one exception to this arrangement. During periods of officially recognised hot weather, when we relax our school uniform expectations and children are permitted to attend school in their PE kit, we will also allow children to bring an insulated water bottle if they wish, so that their drinking water can remain cooler throughout the day.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain a safe, practical and inclusive learning environment for all of our children.

Kind regards,



Adrian King